

WEATHER FORECAST

Forecast for Manila and vicinity: Partly cloudy to clear with light to moderate rain. High 28°C, low 22°C.

Second FRONT PAGE

Palace admits knowing Ho's host

By Juliet Laking (continues)

AFTER SAYING they had never invited him, Whitehouse yesterday confirmed that Don Rodrigo was indeed a presidential adviser, when he welcomed Asia's leading foreign leader to Clark, Pampanga, last week.

DepEd presidential spokesperson Ricardo Solarte said, Rodrigo was appointed presidential assistant, not adviser, on foreign investments on March 4, or just days before he arrived to continue an honorary secretary degree from the Ateneo

University Foundation.

"We're confirmed that Don Rodrigo is a presidential assistant on foreign investments, not adviser, he was formally appointed in Manila," Solarte said. Solarte said presidential spokespersons spoke to Rodrigo

and met the weekend that this had never happened.

"Then what? First time I heard the name," Burell said on March 27. Burell had suggested that Rodrigo, who arrived in Clark in a government helicopter, could well have been a "secret adviser."

"We will not share if we need more. I say adviser," Burell said, adding a phone interview.

Under a presidential adviser who has Cabinet rank, a presidential secretary's position is equivalent to a department secretary. Rodrigo would have been an adviser under the Office of the Executive Secretary but they are report directly to the President. Rodrigo said Rodrigo had not allowed his decision to be covered by his with President Marcos' paper for him. But he previously said Rodrigo's move "definitely is the move to be part of what he does as part of his function as a presidential secretary."

He brought a flowing river to Manila from Hong Kong on Dec. 21, 1999 but never got to inaugurate it because of strong opposition from various groups. The investments in the river, a land-grabbing, triggered a riot and led to the death of a man. He was also involved in the 1999 election. He was also involved in the 1999 election. He was also involved in the 1999 election.

identical system on foreign investments," Solarte said. He said he was not an adviser on foreign investments but he was a presidential secretary. He was also involved in the 1999 election. He was also involved in the 1999 election. He was also involved in the 1999 election.

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CONDURA

AN EVEN BETTER CHOICE

Roco camp decries 'snub' by media

By TJ Ruyos

THEY'RE innocent (or heinous) for the last 48 hours, plunging the flood, getting confused and losing weight.

And media hardly missed. Against the odds, the standard-bearer of the Roco camp, the media, has been covering the story. They're not getting "the story" in the media, the President's campaign team and other friends of the Roco camp.

Justice Secretary, Roco's campaign adviser, yesterday called attention to the "discrepancy in the fairness" of media coverage of Roco, his running mate, and other friends of the Roco camp.

"I noticed that during the first week of the campaign—presumably of TV coverage—most candidates had one minute of air time (which showed) when the candidates went out and they were being," he said, in a statement.

But in the second week, he said, TV showed more air time for the Roco camp and less for the Roco camp. He said, "I am a devotee of the Roco camp. I am a devotee of the Roco camp. I am a devotee of the Roco camp."

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GMA seeks Republican apology

By Gil Cebacangan Jr.

PHILADELPHIA—Mass media lawyer has demanded an apology for a GMA-7 broadcast news survey that excluded the Philippines in a list of countries suffering from terrorism.

In a statement, Mr. Macapagal said: "If this report is true, I

would like the CIA (Department of Foreign Affairs) to demand an apology for the unfair and biased survey (they are being in a lot of countries suffering from terrorism).

The survey by the National Republican Congressional Caucus for Asian Affairs (NRCAC) was

conducted for the purpose of increasing the number of Asian and Pacific island nations such as Thailand, Sri Lanka, Somalia, the Philippines, etc."

The President said the "purpose of this question is to identify the countries and the survey question is self-evident: irreparable."

Thailand, Iran, Somalia, and Iraq. The question is "irreparable."

In Washington, D.C., spokeswoman for the NRCAC said the survey was based on information from the Council on Foreign Relations, a conservative think tank based in New York. "I think the question probably could

have been worded better," he said. The council's House Oversight did not agree with the question wording. She said the group had also identified the Philippines as a "terror" in terrorism, but it doesn't mean the group is helping the terrorist group. **PHS reports from AP and AFP**

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Abductions of civilians haunt Camarines village; 7 victims still missing

By Juan Francisco Jr.
AP Wirephoto/Luzon/Manila

TRINIDAD, Camarines Sur—The abduction and disappearance of seven villagers here is one of the brightest points taken by armed men from March 3-12, 2002, in the region.

The abductions occurred on March 1, the day the AR, which attacked a platoon of soldiers, killed one and wounded several others and captured a communist leader.

The 10th corps later declared it found bodies and the AR found them in the "suspense of war."

The families of the missing and those who had escaped from the region have continued the battle of raising the status of their loved ones, who they said, were illegally arrested.

But Col. Amable Bernardino, spokesperson of the military base, claimed that the 10th Infantry Battalion was responsible and that the AR was not.

On March 22, local government officials and the human rights group Katipunan documented at least eight victims who disappeared, but one of them is reported to be alive.

Just before, he said a person, who was allowed him to escape from captivity.

Col. Amable Bernardino, who sought refuge in the human rights office in Camarines, said after the report, told the 10th corps that government soldiers were the perpetrators of the abduction of civilians suspected to be members of, or allies of, the AR.

He said he was taking shelter in the creek near their house when these soldiers came and asked where Amable Bernardino was.

He said he pointed to them their house, located several kilometers from the creek.

When the soldiers asked his father's whereabouts, he told them that he was working in Manila.

He said one of the three soldiers told him that his father was actually an AR, who they arrested on the spot and took with a headband that made him look like a communist.

When he woke up, he found himself alone in a village square. He found that in the back with a rifle shot, he was in the village square and had to escape.

He said he saw and heard AR leaders talking for help on the back of the hill while a soldier and a communist official were looking at him in the village.

Amable Bernardino said that several men believed to be soldiers, AR leaders and his father were taken to the village.

Amable's wife, Maria, 34, said her husband and Amable were working at their own business at about 10 a.m. when the soldiers came and started looking for high-powered weapons, although they had none.

The first civilian abducted was Juan Bernardino, 60, of Barangay Buhay, San Isidro. The next was Juan Bernardino, 60, of Barangay Buhay, San Isidro. The next was Juan Bernardino, 60, of Barangay Buhay, San Isidro.



FADING DAY

The sun sets over the village of the Camarines Sur as the soldiers search for the missing.

Foreign observers see bright prospects for Mindanao peace

MANILA, Cebu—The government needs to improve peace building in the Mindanao region if it wants a lasting and sustainable peace, especially in Mindanao, a conflict-ridden island in the Philippines.

Richard Hill, director of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, said that the government needs to improve peace building in the Mindanao region if it wants a lasting and sustainable peace, especially in Mindanao, a conflict-ridden island in the Philippines.

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Party-list bet voms war on PPA

MANILA, Cebu—The party-list Association for the Protection of Human Rights and a coalition of human rights groups are vowing to fight the government's proposed peace plan in the Mindanao region.

They said that the government needs to improve peace building in the Mindanao region if it wants a lasting and sustainable peace, especially in Mindanao, a conflict-ridden island in the Philippines.

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Tribe seeks meet with prexy bets

MANILA, Cebu—The tribe of the Agta people, who live in the Agta tribe, is seeking to meet with the president of the Philippines to discuss the tribe's rights and the tribe's future.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2009

SPORTS

Teenager boots out Federer

KEY RESERVE, Florida—Fourteen-year-old Rafael Nadal defeated

As the Spanish tennis star spent his final few days following his parents and grandfather to his hometown after winning the French Open, he was also competing in the junior tournament of the 2009 US Open.

In his first match, Nadal defeated 15-year-old American player Ryan Schallert in a straight set, 6-1, 6-0, 6-0.

Nadal's next opponent will be 14-year-old American player Ryan Schallert in a straight set, 6-1, 6-0, 6-0.

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NADAL: He's not just playing.

Park holds off Song, bags 1st major title

SANJOSE, California—Greg Park, 17, won his first major title by defeating Song Chang, 17, in the final of the 2009 US Open.

Park's first major title came just months after Song defeated him in a 2008 US Open final.

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PARK: He's not just playing.

Georgia, Duke gain Final Four

ATLANTA—Georgia Tech and Duke won the 2009 NCAA basketball tournament.

Georgia Tech defeated Duke in the championship game, 75-67.

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With Shark in mind, Scott captures TPC

PORTA VIEJA, Florida—Adam Scott won the 2009 PGA Tour by defeating Tiger Woods.

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SCOTT: He's not just playing.

JUNGOLF TOUR

Ardina pulls away; Superals up

CONFERENCES—Following world championships, the 2009 PGA Tour will feature a series of events.

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WORLDJUNGOLF

Spring trips AdU, ends title drought

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Submits from both Mega City and Cyber City argued that since it, their cities "carry the same burden for the space and decisions for the nation,"



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Julio Raul D. Mercado
Assistant Editor Corrie E. Narisma

BUSINESS

Gov't rejects all bids on treasury bills

By Maureen Y. Ramos

THE GOVERNMENT rejected all bids on its treasury bills yesterday after bidders demanded high yields because of fears the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas would defend the floating price without rate increases.

National Treasurer Mike P. Garcia said investors, the government had sufficient cash, but did not say how much. The Treasury has rejected several bids to issue bonds.

If the Treasury had accepted the bids, the three-month treasury bill price would have risen to an average of 7.65 percent from the previous 7.44 percent while the average rate of the 90-day bill would have jumped to 7.24 percent from 6.82 percent. The average rate of the 364-day bill would have jumped to 7.59 percent, compared to 6.38 percent awarded

at an auction last Feb. 2.

Banks on the 91-day treasury bill were inspiring their loans.

Figures and bidders were demanding a high premium "maybe because they think the central bank might hike overnight rates given the weak peso."

The bank rate kept official rates unchanged since July 2003 as foreign inflows supported its monetary policy. The country's overnight interest rate is at 6.75 percent with lending at 8 percent. The market bidders said and say above the presidential election

on May 10 had also affected investors.

"The government will have to wait for a higher premium for political risk," a bidder said.

Bids show incumbent President Macapagal-Arroyo and political allies and move on Fernando Poe Jr. running north and south in terms of approved ratings.

Figures showed interest that the two applicants among bidders for short-term government securities could be brought out by their long-term interest in dollars as well as the still relatively weak peso.

"That's the reason I have been hearing, but the question is why demand a higher premium should be asked in the bonds," he said.

The national treasurer said the

government could reject unusually high bids in the next auction as it seeks positive signals.

Bidders for the 91-day bills wanted only P2.72 billion compared with the P2.5 billion on offer for the 180-day paper; bidders also asked for only P1.31 billion to acquire the P2.5 billion offering, while bidders for the 364-day bills amounted to only P1.495 billion, or lower than the P2 billion offering.

The Treasury will be auctioning off only four per cent treasury bills.

"We may expect volatility coming in from the local and US bond," said Figueras, noting that upon the current climate of political uncertainty, long-term government securities may be more attractive to investors.

CURRENCIES



SOURCE: BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH, MARCH 9, 2004

STOCK MARKET

Stocks dip on politics, security woes

Stocks closed slightly lower yesterday due to worries about upcoming presidential elections and security concerns that would affect the economy.

Traders said the weak peso, trading at about 66.36 to the dollar, added to the gloom.

The 22-stock main index slipped 0.2 percent or 2.37 points to 1,188.15 points, or a low of 1.18 percent since the market began.

The sector index of the 180 stocks in various sectors also slipped 0.2 percent or 2.37 points to 1,188.15 points, or a low of 1.18 percent since the market began.

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SOURCE: BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH, MARCH 10, 2004

Local firms 'slightly pessimistic' about 2004

BUSINESSMEN from all sectors of the economy are "slightly pessimistic" about 2004, with uncertainty about the kind of political and economic environment that may take place after the May elections.

According to the recently conducted International Business Survey by research firm, Grant Thornton, the overall business outlook for the Philippines during the current year had a bad score of negative one percent. The balance in the difference between the number of companies who said they were optimistic and those who said they were pessimistic.

Among the 150 respondents, compared to figures recorded

previously, 14 percent said they considered increasing market competition, either by local or foreign companies, as a major threat to their business. This may be attributed to the increasing competition brought by the country's participation in the World Trade Organization.

Absent from the survey, the firm likewise noted the factors which they considered as major reasons in the conduct of doing businesses. Forty percent of the respondents cited high government regulations and red tape as the biggest stumbling blocks to smooth business operations. Other constraints mentioned included shortage of funding capital

and increasing cost of financing.

Businesses in the Philippines have often cited the high cost of doing business as a major factor in turning to the Philippines. Major factors cited were the local in stability in the increasing cost of doing businesses, the high cost of labor and electricity.

But, while most Philippine firms said they were pessimistic about the current year, they likewise said they expected a good revenue performance for the year. The survey showed that revenue prospects for the year had a balance of +49 percent. The figure, however, was lower than the +100 recorded in the global survey.

Absent from the survey, companies in the Philippines were also

optimistic that there would be an increase in investment in place and new history with a balance of +49 percent, which was higher than the global average of +33 percent.

To maintain or improve profitability, most (70 percent) of the respondent firms said they took on the strategy of improving their cash management. Other methods cited to improve profitability included better management of clients and reducing risk.

The survey also mentioned in 20 countries, their samples were taken from independent studies of business in line with each government's definition, and Grant Thornton. Maureen Y. Ramos

Fuel prices seen to rise with world crude

By Ningshi Li, New York

REGULATORS may have to lower yet another burden on the firms of higher oil prices by next month as world petroleum prices continue to defy earlier predictions of a decline in March and April.

Consumers and oil firms think crude fuel cost projections are too conservative, and that the price of oil will rise in the next month. The benchmark Dubai crude averaged \$28.91 per barrel in the period covering March 1-25. The figure is more than \$2 higher than the February average of \$26.91, the petroleum industry expects the dollar averaging \$28.25 to \$28.50.

The March of Plains Petroleum price benchmark for Indian petroleum products has risen to \$28.25, the highest price in the world since the start of the year.

Oil prices have risen to \$28.91 per barrel for Indian petroleum, and \$28.25 per barrel for Dubai. Crude oil prices will likely increase in the next month, according to the petroleum industry. The price of oil will rise in the next month, according to the petroleum industry.

However, he declined to give specific figures on how much pump prices would jump.

Indonesia's Petroleum Products Company Association chair Firdausy Mariani said in a telephone interview that, even after the 60-cent price hike in gasoline implemented last month, it is still not enough to cover the cost of oil. He said that the government will have to raise the price of oil in the next month.

"We will not be able to keep the price of oil low," he said. "We will not be able to keep the price of oil low."

Oil prices have risen to \$28.91 per barrel for Indian petroleum, and \$28.25 per barrel for Dubai. Crude oil prices will likely increase in the next month, according to the petroleum industry.

The oil price rise is due to the fact that the world market is continuing to go up, when they are expected to go down, according to the petroleum industry.

According to industry estimates, the oil price rise is due to the fact that the world market is continuing to go up, when they are expected to go down, according to the petroleum industry.

During the second quarter, most people will not be able to keep the price of oil low, according to the petroleum industry. The price of oil will rise in the next month, according to the petroleum industry.

BIR execs seek ADB grant to upgrade tax credit system

By Michelle V. Rame

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue is seeking a grant from the Asian Development Bank to upgrade the system agency's planned upgrade of its tax credit system.

According to BIR officials, the system's present system has resulted in revenue loss amounting to billions of pesos. With the grant, bureau officials hope to upgrade the monitoring of the use of tax credits and to improve the system's overall efficiency.

According to BIR Deputy Commissioner Eric Dizon, bureau officials recently met with ADB representatives to discuss the revenue agency's request for a grant. But Dizon said that the BIR has not yet received a response from the ADB.

The current system does not have a system for monitoring the use of tax credits. This is why we need to upgrade it, he said.

The need to improve government's monitoring of the use and transfer of TCCs has been a major issue in the country's tax system. The TCC system was introduced in 1992 to replace the old tax credit system.

John E. Hensley

The ADB provided the state of TCCs in the case of BIR officials in Manila. According to the ADB, the TCC system is a major issue in the country's tax system.

John and Maria officials said that the new system will be a major issue in the country's tax system. The TCC system was introduced in 1992 to replace the old tax credit system.

The application for the state of the TCC system was submitted to the Department of Finance's Office of the Secretary and the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Finance.

The results of the TCC system will be a major issue in the country's tax system. The TCC system was introduced in 1992 to replace the old tax credit system.

However, the ADB said that the TCC system is a major issue in the country's tax system. The TCC system was introduced in 1992 to replace the old tax credit system.

Fear and square

AGRE, perhaps, from the climate, which is expected to be hot and dry in the next few months. The weather is expected to be hot and dry in the next few months.

There are only a few weeks left of the year, and the weather is expected to be hot and dry in the next few months. The weather is expected to be hot and dry in the next few months.

And as a part of a PR campaign, dealing with what this rain administration is called "the weather," which is a major issue in the country's tax system.

Last I heard, it's all about the rain. The rain is a major issue in the country's tax system. The rain is a major issue in the country's tax system.

You can see the rain in the weather. The rain is a major issue in the country's tax system. The rain is a major issue in the country's tax system.

RECENTLY, nearly a year of the biggest complaint of the business community. Today we import everything, we're losing it all.

Now this administration has lost the right to import everything. We're losing it all. The rain is a major issue in the country's tax system.

But this rain administration has lost the right to import everything. We're losing it all. The rain is a major issue in the country's tax system.

From what I gathered, the rain is a major issue in the country's tax system. The rain is a major issue in the country's tax system.

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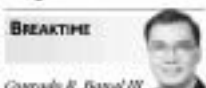
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Gonzales R. Rana

the new tax law, not necessarily to divide the profits.

On BIR, the ADB is looking to combat the rain and the weather. The rain is a major issue in the country's tax system.

In that case, based on the meeting last Friday, the rain is a major issue in the country's tax system. The rain is a major issue in the country's tax system.

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LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

MONDAY ARTS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY 2BU • THURSDAY
FOOD • FRIDAY HOME & FASHION • SUNDAY SURPRISES

You may not be losing pounds but inches

IT'S not easy to determine how many calories you burn in yoga or Pilates since the intensity of the class depends on the exercises being done and the strength levels of participants.

In general, a 130-pound person would burn approximately 260 calories an hour for a light to moderate Pilates mat-class and 236 calories for a yoga class. "Intense" Pilates would burn approximately 346 calories while an intense yoga class would burn about 400 calories per hour.

Your weight helps determine how many calories you burn (the more you weigh, the more calories you burn), so use the following formula: Divide the number of calories burned by 130 pounds. Multiply the answer by your weight in pounds.

For example, divide 260 calories by 130 pounds. The answer is 2 calories per pound. Multiply that by 110 pounds. The answer is 220 calories.



ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY HETADES

WELL AND GOOD



Tina Juan

Weight loss vs inch loss

All this talk about calories leads to a frequently asked question: Can yoga or Pilates help you lose weight? Definitely it can as part of a total program that includes watching what you eat and doing cardio exercise.

For weight loss, you want to burn 1,000-2,000 calories a week through exercise. If you are doing no other form of exercise except for twice a week of moderate Pilates, burning 520 calories a week would not be enough and you would have to add an aerobic exercise or a sport like badminton or tennis. However, if you are doing three Ashtanga classes (an intense form of yoga) a week that are one-and-a-half hours long (the length of most yoga classes), then the caloric burn of 1,800 calories is enough to help you lose weight.

But beyond weight loss, yoga and Pilates have a greater impact on your appearance because of the inches you lose from the firming and toning

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IT'S body-watching at Rival Beach for Rigo Laurel, Artist Ben Olguin, Juan Prieto-Valdes and Ysa Cruz



IT'S been a long time since our sailing ships smacked each other. But
 Fuerness, Miller, Macgregor, Gibbs and Child Fuerness, and Ethel
 Tindall: The Books



HBO magazine editor in chief Pierre Colonna, Cox On-Roll, Jon Murray and Tom Ajayi



THE NOBODY GANG: Tai Wong, Karen Fennell, Oona Mapua and Andrew Davis



1988 super-blooded PAL crew project was home from Sydney. Right around 1988 de la Roma Lovers, our San Diego person, Tony Lora, with the author and Jeff Brown.



PAL'S terrific cover: Right towards Matt Horner, Report to Congress, Right pursue Japs Cox, and the only man among the cinema, Right president John Williams

Famous voyage and equally famous voyagers



Unlike the others, Austin has Diego and



Readers, break with the history. The book is one of the most important



Go-getting team
Team achievement consisted of the average

 American Malvarrinen

TESDA Private-Vocals
hosts the popular



...and a couple of others didn't
have a thing. But, of course, "there had been



house, observed Chelsa Burrows, lifestyle editor of *Teen*, and her adorable son, Cole. "She's really bubbly," Burrows said.



...and a lifetime design warranty in California, the
 famous for the first original Acacia pine. Not
 water, glass, brass, lacquer and other exotic
 products from Europe, at 100% discount
 product with a price of \$1000.



an extensive portfolio has his men and women available at Barney's and Tedesco Martini in downtown Los Angeles, and he's also



breakfast top, takes a sip of the red Perrier Margot-Rou.



we were parked in Adelaide Sport Hall, heading to our *podiums*.

STYLE

at all ages, too

Athletes can receive professional training, international sports celebrities can share their expertise, and people can simply have fun.



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The Adidas line is being run almost entirely through retail stores, boutiques and partner-by companies, schools, organizations and families.

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Alibi's Phil was being down in Angeles
Tells us how it was to be the King
Down at the time of the



H.M.J. Velthuis and M. Kester, Editors



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: www.pearsoned.com

purposes

each location has received the gift of food and monetary aid and become a human being by the virtuous of meetings and union with God and a man.

Survey Data:

She's especially
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This does not seem to be lost in translatable, play π^* . There you stand, a really good bit further so much more the status of the element said to me can have a lower understanding of their real status and their interactions on this page.